THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) The criteria and the items of import against Special Import Licence are given in the Public Notice No. 64/(PN)/92-97 dated 21-10-1992, a copy of which is available in the Parliament Library.

(c) The benefit of Special Import Licence is allowed for Deemed exports, Export House, Trading House, Star Trading House and manufacturers who have ecquired internationally recognised certification of quality. The licences are freely tradeable.

Import of A.C. Cars and Coaches without Licence

3305. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to import air conditioned cars and AC coaches required for the development of tourism in the country without a licence; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details in this regard are contained in Ministry of Commerce Public Notice No. 100(PN)/92-93 dated 3-2-1993, copies of which are available in the Parliament library.

Production and Export of Tea

3306. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA :
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR :
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the tea industry has suffered a major setback over the last two years following break-up of the erstwhile USSR;

(b) if so, what are the total production and export of tea during the last three years alongwith the targets fixed;

(c) whether a tea convention was held recently to formulate a strategy for responding to the stiff competition in international market;

(d) what are the observations made in the convention alongwith Government's reaction thereon; and

(e) what steps are proposed to be taken by Government for pushing up tea exports to the hard currency areas ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) The tea industry is facing problems on account of disintegration of erstwhile USSR and reduced purchase by CIS countries, which were major buyers of Indian tea.

(b) Data regarding production of tea is maintained on a calendar year basis. Production during the past 3 years vis-a-vis the targets has been as under :—

(Production Mn Kgs.)

Year	Target	Achievement
1990	720	720.34
1991	735	741.72 (estimated)
1992	765	703.93 (estimated)